

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

18 JUNE 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Communist
China - Laos

a. Peiping's latest tirade on Laos--a People's Daily editorial of 16 June--lumps the Soviet and British cochairmen of the ICC together as villains.

b. The Russians are accused--as usual not by name--of failing to use their position to denounce the US for violating the Geneva agreements.

c. Commenting sarcastically that the US had appealed to "somebody" to bring pressure on Peiping, the Chinese virtually imply that Moscow is secretly in league with Washington.

d. Peiping carefully avoided a commitment to action--despite the toughest language it has used in months--and we score this one as Chinese orchestration for the line that Khrushchev is "soft on capitalism."

2. South Vietnam

a. The success of the compromise agreement between Diem's government and the Buddhists still hangs upon the real intent of both sides.

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b. The government has agreed on paper to all the demands of the Buddhists, but must itself take additional steps to carry out its promises on three of them. The Buddhists remain skeptical.

c. The Buddhists are now planning a three-day funeral ceremony beginning tomorrow for the self-cremated Bonze, during which the situation will remain at best uneasy.

3. Turkey

a. Some of the military remain unhappy with Inonu's government.

b. Leaflets were spread by something which calls itself the "National Revolutionary Army" in several cities last week.

c. We have not yet determined how influential this group is, but it apparently includes influential military and civilian leaders as well as a cadre of the former Secret Officers' League, which tried the next to last coup on 22 February. They are said to be after a "moderate" military dictatorship and a nonaligned foreign policy.

4. Cuba - air routes

a. Negotiations for a Cubana airlines route to Brazil have apparently come to a halt. Goulart's government has not approved as yet a bilateral agreement of the standard Bermuda type.

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c. KLM has informed our Hague embassy that it will resume unscheduled flights to Cuba, probably twice a month. The service will be quite restricted--to service the Embassies in Havana and transport refugees out of Cuba-- and incidently to recover blocked funds in Havana.

5. Iraq

a. It is now clear that the Iraqi government is committed to a no-holds-barred effort to crush the Kurds. Such tactics may well backfire.

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d. We believe a prolonged campaign may well reverse the currently favorable attitude of the Arab population of Iraq towards the government--as it did during the Qasim regime.

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NOTES

- A. Italy Moro's failure to win support of the Nenni Socialists reduces the chances that a stable Italian government can be formed before President Kennedy's visit to Italy. President Segni, according to Moro, insists a new government must be formed in time for the President's visit. Because of this pressure, Moro is thinking in terms of a stop-gap arrangement pending new elections, perhaps in September. No resolution of the crisis is likely until the Socialist Party's congress, scheduled for 18-21 July.
- B. Malaysia Tunku Rahman is scheduled to meet Sukarno again in Bangkok toward the end of this month.
[redacted]
- C. Cuba The Soviet tanker Poti, which declared her destination as Antwerp, when passing the Bosphorus on 27 May is headed for Havana with 9,756 tons of gasoline and 430 tons of "different cargo." [redacted]
[redacted]
- D. Greece A new caretaker cabinet will be formed by the present Minister of Commerce Panayotis Pipinelis as a result of a compromise reached yesterday by King Paul and Premier Karamanlis. The new cabinet--reluctantly accepted by the leading non-Communist parties--will prepare for elections to be held after several months, as Karamanlis wanted, but the royal family will still go to London in July.

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- E. USSR The Central Committee plenum opened on schedule today. The first segments of Party Secretary Ilichev's keynote speech are devoted to the sins of the Chinese, but we have nothing significant as yet.